

Beyond the Door



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SCENE 1

A kid's bedroom. A closet door stands ajar. As the lights come up ALEX is in pjs, already in bed, but sitting up and not yet asleep.

ALEX

Mom! My closet door is open!

MOM O.V.

Then close it!

ALEX

I want you to come do it!

MOM O.V.

You are old enough to close it yourself!

ALEX

Sits in bed and looks at the door. Puts his feet over the side of the bed. Quickly pulls them back up. Looks at the door some more. Puts a toe out. (Have fun with this part. Exaggerate the fear about getting out of bed and closing the door.)

Maybe I don't need it closed. I can sleep with it open.

Lays down to sleep. Hears a noise from the closet. Pops back up. Lays down. Another noise. Back up. Finally settles in and closes his eyes. The door creaks open.

I heard something.

SAM THE EXPLORER

No you didn't.

ALEX

I totally did! And I heard that, too!

SAM THE EXPLORER

Nope. Nothing.

ALEX

Come out here and show yourself.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Oh, all right.

Sam exits the closet wearing stereotypical explorer garb.

ALEX

You have three seconds to tell me who you are or I am going to scream!

Sucks in air and gets ready for a HUGE scream.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Oh settle down. I'm Sam the Explorer. It's about time you left that door open. I've been waiting in there forever. By the way, you have GOT to do something about your sneakers. They stink! Spray some Febreze in there sometimes, will ya?

ALEX

My feet do not stink.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Yes. They do. But I'm not here about your sneakers.

ALEX

So why are you here? To kidnap me?

SAM THE EXPLORER

What? No! Did I say I was here to kidnap you! No. I'm here to take you on an adventure.

ALEX

An adventure?

SAM THE EXPLORER

You seem skeptical.

ALEX

You came out of my closet. I've been in my closet. My closet is not an adventure.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Um. Do you know how many toys and smelly shoes and dirty socks I had to climb over to get out of there?

ALEX

You seem very concerned with my dirty clothes.

SAM THE EXPLORER

You seem very unaware of how very smelly your dirty clothes are.

A silent standoff

ALEX

Why would you think I need an adventure?

SAM THE EXPLORER

You say so all the time.

ALEX

I have never said any such thing.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Yes you did! Why just yesterday you wrote...

ALEX

I wrote? Hey! Did you read my journal??

SAM THE EXPLORER

Um. Yeah.

ALEX

That's private!

SAM THE EXPLORER

You tossed it into your closet.

ALEX

That was not an invitation to read it!

SAM THE EXPLORER

Okay. I'm sorry. My bad manners aside, you write every day about how you need an adventure and so I'm here to take you on one.

ALEX

I could use a change of pace.

SAM THE EXPLORER

See?

ALEX

But how are you going to take me on an adventure. You came out of my closet. How did you come out of my closet by the way?

SAM THE EXPLORER

There is a world beyond your closet!

ALEX

Seriously? That's the best line you've got?

SAM THE EXPLORER

Not convincing?

ALEX

A little cheesy.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Hmmmm. Let me try again: Beyond the door are wonders galore!

ALEX

Nope. Rhyming. There shouldn't be any rhyming.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Tough audience. All right, look. The truth is anything I say is just gonna sound like I'm making stuff up. So if you want an adventure, you're just going to have to trust me.

ALEX

You came out of my closet in the middle of the night and you want me to trust you? This is like a scary movie.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Hmmm. I didn't really think of it like that. What if I could prove to you that there is an adventure waiting for you?

ALEX

Then maybe.

SAM THE EXPLORER

All right! I'll prove it!

Goes into the closet. Sounds of lots and lots of banging. Maybe a couple of shoes, clothes, old toys get tossed out of the closet. Finally he emerges holding a tree branch.

ALEX

A branch? You found a branch in my closet?

SAM THE EXPLORER

Not in your closet. In the land past your closet.

ALEX

Like Narnia?

SAM THE EXPLORER

Anytime there is a magical world in a closet someone has to bring up Narnia. Not every magical land is Narnia.

ALEX

I didn't mean to offend you.

SAM THE EXPLORER

It's okay. It's just...my world is way cooler than Narnia.

ALEX

I'm sure it is.

SAM THE EXPLORER

So you'll come with me?

ALEX

I didn't say that.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Oh, come on! It's gonna be so great!

ALEX

Yes. That branch is really cool.

SAM THE EXPLORER

There is no need for sarcasm.

ALEX

Dude. It's a branch.

SAM THE EXPLORER

But it proves that something is out there!

ALEX

Or it proves that I really need to clean my closet.

SAM THE EXPLORER

I can't help notice how far you're staying from your closet door. Are you afraid?

ALEX

I'm not afraid. It's just...creepy.

SAM THE EXPLORER

It's okay to be afraid.

ALEX

No it's not.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Of course it is! There are lots of things that I'm afraid of! We're all afraid sometimes.

ALEX

I'm not.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Then why do you always shut your door?

ALEX

I don't like it open.

SAM THE EXPLORER

That the only reason?

ALEX

Yes.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Okay.

Silence

ALEX

Okay. Fine. I shut it because I'm afraid. And, you know, since you came strolling out of there, I might have been afraid with good reason.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Point taken. I'm just saying, it's okay to be afraid. Unless your fear keeps you from doing what you want to do.

ALEX

And what is my fear keeping me from?

SAM THE EXPLORER

The adventure you've been wanting.

ALEX

All right. So let's say I want to get over my fear and go adventuring, what do I need to do?

SAM THE EXPLORER

First you need an outfit!

ALEX

An outfit?

SAM THE EXPLORER

You can't adventure in your PJs! And for your outfit you'll have to go into the closet. Do you think you can do that?

ALEX

I think I'm ready.

SAM THE EXPLORER

Then let's go!

They wander into the closet. Some rustling noises.

ALEX

I can wear my boots! Phew. You're right. These do stink!

SAM THE EXPLORER

I told you so!

ALEX

The stink will scare away the monsters!

SAM THE EXPLORER

There are monsters here? No one mentioned monsters!!

END OF PLAY